



## KENYA

### FAMILY HEALTH: PREVENTING MATERNAL AND CHILD DEATHS

Kenya has made great strides in reducing child deaths, with a nearly 30 percent decline in child and infant mortality between 2008 and 2014, according to national demographic and health surveys. Newborns and young children have a better chance at reaching their full potential thanks to improvements in antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, malaria prevention and control, and increased immunization. Despite this progress, mothers and babies still face high risks before, during and after childbirth. Although preventable and treatable, AIDS, dehydration from diarrhea, malaria, and pneumonia remain leading causes of child death and illness in Kenya.

USAID works with the national and county governments to help the poorest and most vulnerable families receive effective, affordable health services. Our activities are creating an environment where women have safer pregnancies and deliveries, and newborns and young children receive the care they need to grow, develop and thrive, using evidence-based contextual approaches.

USAID's family health program is supporting Kenya in its Journey to Self-Reliance by strengthening the capacity of county governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to plan, implement, and finance solutions to local development challenges, while ensuring commitments to see these through effectively, inclusively, and with accountability and dedicated resources. At a strategic level, the program works in partnership with other development partners such as UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, the GAVI vaccination alliance, and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

By providing free maternal and child health care nationwide and scaling up basic emergency obstetric care, the Government of Kenya is improving the health of mothers and young children. USAID is supporting this effort by training health workers, providing job aids, and procuring essential equipment for health facilities in target counties. Our activities also improve the availability and affordability of health commodities and technologies that save lives, and support family-friendly health policies.

USAID prioritizes support to facilities and communities in areas where rates of stunting and infant and child deaths are highest, and where women have less access to antenatal care and skilled birth attendants. Our activities also support outreach services to children who are unable to visit health facilities, through community health workers and volunteers who provide vitamin A supplementation, immunizations, and prevention and treatment services for pneumonia and diarrhea. These services are combined with health messages that promote handwashing and access to clean water and appropriate sanitation.

## NUTRITION

USAID focuses on preventing undernutrition among the most vulnerable members of the community, specifically children and pregnant and lactating women. The nutrition program seeks to address the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition with high-impact interventions, such as the promotion of adequate feeding practices, micronutrient supplementation, growth monitoring, and integrated malnutrition management. This is linked with food security, livelihood support, and economic strengthening.

## VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING

Provision of quality voluntary family planning services is key for Kenya to achieve its goal of keeping mothers and babies alive. In 2020, more than 7.9 million women of reproductive age were using modern forms of contraceptives. As a result, 2.4 million unintended pregnancies, 519,000 unsafe abortions, and 8,800 maternal deaths will be prevented. However, unmet needs for family planning remain, particularly among adolescents and young people. To address this gap, USAID – in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners – strives to facilitate access to quality family planning services. USAID prioritizes the integration of these services into routine service delivery at health facilities and their availability in community settings. USAID also procures contraceptive commodities; strengthens the supply chain; promotes the benefits of modern, long-term, reversible family planning methods; and offers capacity building for health care providers. To secure adequate financing for family planning, USAID invests in national and county budget advocacy activities aimed at securing financing for contraceptive commodities and service delivery.

### U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)  
President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

### KENYA: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH FACTS

Mother-to-child HIV transmission rates dropped from 28 percent in 2005 to 11 percent in 2018

Stunting reduced by 9 percent\*

About 71 percent of the total demand for family planning is met by using modern methods, bringing Kenya close to the Global 2020 initiative target\*

Total fertility rate reduced from 4.6 children per woman in 2008 to 3.9 children per woman in 2014\*

*\*2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey*

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